

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1206

SECDEF, WASHDC/ASA/DSAA(ISA)

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, MASS, CG

SUBJECT: MTAT

1. OUR TEAM IS NOW ON TOUR BUT BEFORE LEAVING GENERAL ROCKWELL AND COL. GERACI BRIEFED ME ON UNEXPECTED CONVERSATION THEY HAD LATE FEB 5 WITH GENERAL BABIA, CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MILITARY STAFF.

2. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT BABIA CALLED THEM IN ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT AND AS RESULT TEAM'S HAVING MADE CLEAR TO GENERAL KATSUVA (GENERAL ROCKWELL'S COUNTERPART) IN A SERIES OF EXCHANGES THAT US IS NOT RPT NOT GOING TO ASSESS "THREAT TO ZAIRE."

3. BABIA BEGAN WITH WELL-KNOWN LINE OF ZAIRIAN PREFERENCE FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH US, SAID ZAIRE NOW BEING REPROACHED FOR BUILDING RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND NORTH KOREA AND WHILE ZAMISH IN RECENT YEARS HAD NOT BEEN TOO ACTIVE, CHANCE STILL EXISTED FOR US MAKE REAL MILITARY CONTRIBUTION HERE. HE TOLD TEAM THAT SOVIETS WERE ARMING THREE OF ZAIRE'S NEIGHBORS - CONGO BRAZZAVILLE, CAR, AND UGANDA - AND THAT WHILE RELATIONS WERE GOOD TODAY, ONE HAD TO THINK OF TOMORROW. HE THEN URGED TEAM TO CONCENTRATE ON TWO PROBLEMS. FIRST, HOW TO STRUCTURE DIVISIONAL FORCE WITH FLEXIBLE CAPABILITY TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO DEFEND INCURSIONS FROM ANYWHERE IN ALL
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ZAIRE'S TERRAIN; SECOND, PROBLEM OF AIR DEFENSE OF

VITAL INSTALLATIONS WHICH TEAM WOULD VISIT.

4. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THIS MUCH OF BABIA'S REMARKS
WAS BASED ON NTVAI WHICH WE PRESUME WERE DICTATED BY
PRESIDENT MOBUTU. ENSUING DISCUSSION WAS WIDE-
RANGING
AND LENGTHY WITH GENERAL ROCKWELL CONCENTRATING ON
AIR DEFENSE THEORY AND DIPLOMATICALLY MAKING CLEAR
THAT
SYSTEM TO GUARD AGAINST ALL CONTINGENCIES WAS IMPOSSIBLE
AND THAT EVEN TO APPROACH SUCH SYSTEMS WOULD BE ENORMOUSLY
EXPENSIVE.

5. GENERAL REPORTS ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WAY EXCELLENT.
WHILE US AND GOZ TEAMS HAVE BEEN SPARRING SO FAR OVER
SOME QUESTIONS, HIS EXPECTATION IS THAT TRIP INTO
INTERIOR WILL FACILITATE ESTABLISHMENT MUCH CLOSER AND
OPEN RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: SO FAR HOSPITALITY AND COOPERATION SHOWN
THIS MISSION BY ZAIROIS IS IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO
ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE GOING ON ZAIRE THESE DAYS
VIS-A-VIS US GOVERNMENT.
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